

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 COME-00 AGR-20 IO-13

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

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R 081645 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1805

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EIND

SUBJECT: RUBBER: 88 TH MEETING, INTERNATIONAL RUBBER  
STUDY GROUP, LONDON, JUNE 5-8, 1973

1. SUMMARY- INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP (IRSG)  
HELD 88 TH GROUP MEETING IN LONDON, JUNE 5-8. MAJOR  
BUSINESS OF GROUP WAS TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM COMMITTEE  
OF EXPERTS ("HAWKINS COMMITTEE") ANALYZING PROSPECTS  
FOR RUBBER UP TO 1980 AND RECOMMENDING ACTIONS TO BE  
TAKEN. US STRATEGY WAS SUCCESSFUL IN AVOIDING DETAILED  
DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OR ADOPTION/  
REJECTION OF REPORT. AS A RESULT, WITHOUT APPROVING OR  
REJECTING REPORT, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IRSG AGREED THAT  
"ITS CONSTRUCTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED FRAMEWORK FOR  
FURTHER ACTION BY IRSG IN FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL RUBBER  
POLICY." STEERING COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO STUDY REPORT,  
ESTABLISH PRIORITIES, PROPOSE ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT RE-

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PORT. USG WILL BE INVITED TO BE MEMBER OF STEERING COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. STATISTICAL COMMITTEE OF IRSG MET JUNE 4, BEFORE FIRST PLENARY ON JUNE 5. AS STATISTICAL DATA ON RUBBER PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN NON- MEMBER COUNTRIES HAS BEEN INADEQUATE IN PAST, US DEL PROVIDED SUCH DATA, ACQUIRED PRIOR TO MEETING BY CIRCULAR TELEGRAM TO US EMBASSIES IN 38 NON- MEMBER COUNTRIES. STATISTICAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT RECORDS APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO USG; COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ( UK) ALSO THANKED US DEL IN CLOSING REMARKS. COMMITTEE ESTIMATED WORLD CONSUMPTION FOR 1973 AT 3.35 MILLION MT OF NATURAL RUBBER, AND 6.97 MILLION MT OF SYNTHETIC RUBBER. SUPPLIES FOR 1973 ESTIMATED AT: 3.44 MILLION MT NATURAL (INCLUDING STOCKPILE DELIVERIES), AND 7.07 MILLION MT SYNTHETIC. IN VIEW OF EXPECTED INCREASES IN CONSUMPTION OF BOTH NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC AND ADDITIONAL STOCKS REQUIRED, IRSG DECIDED SUPPLY AND DEMAND ARE ESSENTIALLY IN BALANCE FOR 1973.

3. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ( UK CHAIRMAN) TOOK UP HAWKINS REPORT, WHICH WAS WRITTEN BY EXPERT COMMITTEE INCLUDING TWO AMERICANS: A. J. ASHE ( GOODRICH) AND J. J. RIEDL ( GOODYEAR). DESPITE MANY CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS IN REPORT, US FOUND CERTAIN SPECIFICS UNACCEPTABLE, AND LOBBIED SUCCESSFULLY TO AVOID CONFRONTATION ON FLOOR AS TO WHETHER IRSG ACCEPTS OR REJECTS REPORT. IN SUCH EVENT, US IT APPEARED, WOULD HAVE BEEN ONLY MEMBER UNABLE ACCEPT REPORT. US TRADE AND INDUSTRY ADVISERS SUPPORTED STRATEGY OF EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS, BUT COMMENDING WORK OF COMMITTEE. US DEL, THEREFORE, STATED THAT, WHILE NOT ALL ASPECTS AND FINDINGS OF REPORT SATISFACTORY TO US ( SUCH AS COMMITTEE'S LACK OF RUBBER TRADE REPRESENTATION), WE COULD ACCEPT IT AS WORKING PAPER TO POSSIBLY PROVIDE BASIS FOR FUTURE IRSG DELIBERATIONS. UNDER UK CHAIRMAN'S URGING, IT WAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH STEERING COMMITTEE AND INVITE FOLLOWING MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN IT: US, MALAYSIA, USSR, NIGERIA, UK, JAPAN, INDONESIA. ( USSR LATER WITHDREW ITS NAME AND PUT FORWARD POLAND IN ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLACE). SYG WILL SEND INVITATIONS TO THESE COUNTRIES TO JOIN. US DEL, IN SHORT MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES THESE COUNTRIES, MADE CLEAR THAT NO RPT NO COMMITMENT TO JOIN COULD BE MADE, AND THAT US PARTICIPATION ON STEERING COMMITTEE CONTINGENT ON REVIEW MATTER WHEN SECRETARIAT INVITATION RECEIVED.

4. AS ENVISAGED COMMITTEE WOULD MEET IN LONDON IN SEPTEMBER WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES MOSTLY REPRESENTED BY LONDON EMBASSY OFFICERS. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF STEERING COMMITTEE AND LANGUAGE ON THIS SUBJECT IN GENERAL REPORT OF MEETING ARE LARGELY OF US ORIGIN AND REQUIRE UNANIMITY OF COMMITTEE TO AGREE ON ACTION.

5. SINGAPORE DEL, AS IN PAST, MADE INTEMPERATE ATTACK ON SHIPPING CONFERENCES AND PRESENTED BADLY DRAFTED, BIASED PROPOSAL STUDY OF MARITIME TRANSPORT OF RUBBER BY UNCTAD, ECAFE AND ECA. US DEL SUCCEEDED IN SENDING PROPOSAL BACK TO DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERABLY MORE BALANCED DRAFT EMERGED. AFTER ONE US PROPOSED CHANGE TO ELIMINATE PEJORATIVE REFERENCES TO CONFERENCE SYSTEM, PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED.

6. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT IRSG ASSEMBLY STILL UNDECIDED; DECISION POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT ADMIN- FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING IN LONDON, JANUARY 1974. US DEL WAS TOLD BY SYG HE THINKS NETHERLANDS MAY HOST ASSEMBLY IN JUNE 1974. CHAIRMAN ELECTED FOR 1973/74- UK; VICE-CHAIRMAN- INDONESIA. BUDGET APPROVED FOR 1973/74. ANNENBERG

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** AORG, EIND, TH, UK  
**To:** BANGKOK  
EB  
JAKARTA  
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